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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GEORGE F. KENNAN

There is very little that I can say at this time. As you know, the President has appointed me Ambassador to the Soviet Union. I am down here in Washington to take the oath of office and get ready for my new job. I am going to start for Moscow in the latter part of this month.

My job in Moscow, as I see it, will be to implement the policies of the United States Government within the area of responsibility given to me. The Embassy at Moscow is only one small part of the machinery for the implementation of our foreign policy, and its effectiveness is always going to depend on the extent to which the Ambassador there bears this in mind and contrives to function as a member of a team. The opportunities for service must be determined, as in the case of any other diplomatic mission, largely by circumstances, and I cannot foresee them at this time. I will be happy if the work at Moscow gives me a chance to make a contribution to the reduction of existing tensions and the improvement of the international atmosphere. Those are objectives which seem to me urgently desirable and I see no reason why they should not be within the real of possibiliry, if the desire is reciprocated.

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